

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

receiving a communication from a calling party to a device associated with a user being contacted by the calling party;

accessing information pertaining to the communication;

retrieving data corresponding to the user being contacted by the calling party using the information pertaining to the communication;

determining a preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode;

determining whether the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than a device used by the calling party to initiate the communication; and

sending contact information identifying a device associated with the calling party to the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party in the data format of the preferred device, when the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving data comprises:

accessing a database for call preference information corresponding to the user.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the call preference information comprises an indication of a device to which communications should be forwarded.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device to be a device indicated in the call preference information.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device to be a predetermined default device.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device to be a device last used by the user.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting a time period during which a particular device is the preferred device.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the override mode comprises a do not disturb mode.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, comprising:
routing the communication to voice mail based on a determination that the user is associated with a do not disturb mode.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising:
routing the communication to the preferred device without reformatting the communication if the preferred device does not require a different data format.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the data format of the device of the calling party comprises voice data and the data format of the preferred device of the user comprises text data, or vice versa.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
sending a request for the data format of the device used by the calling party.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, comprising:
providing the device associated with the calling party with a graphical interface for use in entering the communication.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

automatically converting incoming data associated with the communication to new incoming data with the data format of the preferred device of the user.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a communication to a user from a calling party, the communication to the user being initiated by a device used by the calling party on a data network;

retrieving data corresponding to the user using the information pertaining to the communication;

determining a preferred device of the user based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode;

determining whether the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication;

sending information to the calling party indicating that the calling party should contact the user at the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication, and

routing the communication to the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user accepts the data format of the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the calling party initiates the communication by clicking on a hyperlink.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein retrieving data comprises:
obtaining, from a database, call preference information corresponding to the user.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the call preference information comprises an indication of a device to which communications should be forwarded.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device to be a device indicated in the call preference information.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device to be a predetermined default device.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device to be a device last used by the user.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting a time period during which a particular device is the preferred device.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17, comprising:

retrieving data corresponding to the calling party; and

determining a preferred device of the calling party based on the retrieved data.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein retrieving data corresponding to the calling party comprises:

accessing a database for call preference information corresponding to the calling party.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the call preference information corresponding to the calling party comprises an indication of a device to which communications to the calling party should be forwarded.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein determining a preferred device of the calling party comprises:

specifying the preferred device of the calling party to be a device indicated in the call preference information.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein determining a preferred device of the calling party comprises:

specifying the preferred device of the calling party to be a predetermined default device.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein determining a preferred device of the calling party comprises:

specifying the preferred device of the calling party to be a device last used by the calling party.

31. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein determining a preferred device of the calling party comprises:

specifying the preferred device of the calling party based on information reflecting a time period during which a particular device is the preferred device of the calling party.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the override mode comprises a do not disturb mode.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, comprising:
routing the first call to voice mail based on a determination that the user is associated with a do not disturb mode.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the data format of the device of the calling party comprises voice data and the data format of the preferred device of the user comprises text data, or vice versa.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
sending a request for the data format of a preferred device of the calling party.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, comprising:
providing the preferred device of the calling party with a graphical interface for use in entering the communication.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
automatically converting incoming data associated with the first call to new incoming data with the data format of the preferred device of the user.

40-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

means for receiving a communication from a calling party to a device associated with a user being contacted by the calling party;

means for accessing information pertaining to the communication;

means for retrieving data corresponding to the user being contacted by the calling party using the information pertaining to the communication;

means for determining a preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode;

means for determining whether the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than a device used by the calling party to initiate the communication; and

means for sending contact information identifying a device associated with the calling party to the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party in the data format of the preferred device, when the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 52, the means for retrieving comprising:

means for accessing a database for call preference information corresponding to the user.

54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the call preference information comprises an indication of a device to which communications should be forwarded.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 53, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device to be a device indicated in the call preference information.

56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device to be a predetermined default device.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device to be a device last used by the user.

58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting a time period during which a particular device is the preferred device.

59. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the override mode comprises a do not disturb mode.

60. (Original) The apparatus of claim 59, comprising:
means for routing the communication to voice mail based on a determination that the user is associated with a do not disturb mode.

61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the means for routing comprising:
means for forwarding the communication to the preferred device without reformatting the communication if the preferred device does not require a different data format.

62. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the data format of the device of the calling party comprises voice data and the data format of the preferred device of the user comprises text data, or vice versa.

63. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, comprising:
means for sending a request for the data format of the device used by the calling party.

64. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, comprising:

means for providing the device associated with the calling party with a graphical interface for use in entering the communication.

65. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, comprising:

means for automatically converting incoming data associated with the communication to new incoming data with a the data format of the preferred device of the user.

66-67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

means for receiving information pertaining to a communication to a user from a calling party, the communication to the user being initiated by a device used by the calling party on a data network;

means for retrieving data corresponding to the user using the information pertaining to the communication;

means for determining a preferred device of the user based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode;

means for determining whether the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication;

means for sending information to the calling party indicating that the calling party should contact the user at the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication; and

means for routing the communication to the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user accepts the data format of the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

69. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the calling party initiates the communication by clicking on a hyperlink.

70. (Original) The apparatus of claim 68, the means for retrieving comprising:
means for accessing a database for call preference information corresponding to the user.

71. (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the call preference information comprises an indication of a device to which communications should be forwarded.

72. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 70, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:
means for specifying the preferred device to be a device indicated in the call preference information.

73. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:
means for specifying the preferred device to be a predetermined default device.

74. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:
means for specifying the preferred device to be a device last used by the user.

75. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:
means for specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting a time period during which a particular device is the preferred device.

76. (Original) The apparatus of claim 68, comprising:
means for retrieving data corresponding to the calling party; and
means for determining a preferred device of the calling party based on the retrieved data.

77. (Original) The apparatus of claim 76, the means for retrieving data corresponding to the calling party comprising:
means for accessing a database for call preference information corresponding to the calling party.

78. (Original) The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the call preference information corresponding to the calling party comprises an indication of a device to which communications to the calling party should be forwarded.

79. (Original) The apparatus of claim 76, the means for determining a preferred device of the calling party comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device of the calling party to be a device indicated in the call preference information.

80. (Original) The apparatus of claim 76, the means for determining a preferred device of the calling party comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device of the calling party to be a predetermined default device.

81. (Original) The apparatus of claim 76, the means for determining a preferred device of the calling party comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device of the calling party to be a device last used by the calling party.

82. (Original) The apparatus of claim 76, the means for determining a preferred device of the calling party comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device of the calling party based on information reflecting a time period during which a particular device is the preferred device of the calling party.

83. (Canceled)

84. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the override mode comprises a do not disturb mode.

85. (Original) The apparatus of claim 84, comprising:
means for routing the first call to voice mail based on a determination that the user is associated with a do not disturb mode.

86. (Canceled)

87. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the data format of the device of the calling party comprises voice data and the data format of the preferred device of the user comprises text data, or vice versa.

88. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 87, further comprising:
means for sending a request for the data format of the device of the calling party.

89. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 88, comprising:

means for providing the preferred device of the calling party with a graphical interface for use in entering the communication.

90. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, further comprising:

means for automatically converting incoming data associated with the first call to new incoming data with the data format of a preferred device of the user.

91-102. (Canceled)

103. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

a memory having a program that:

receives a communication from a calling party to a device associated with a user being contacted by the calling party,

accesses information pertaining to the communication,

retrieves data corresponding to the user being contacted by the calling party using the information pertaining to the communication,

determines a preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode,

determines whether the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than a device used by the calling party to initiate the communication, and

sends contact information identifying a device associated with the calling party to the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party in the data format of the preferred device, when the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication; and

a processor that runs the program.

104. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

a memory having a program that:

receives information pertaining to a communication to a user from a calling party, the communication to the user being initiated by a device used by the calling party on a data network,

retrieves data corresponding to the user using the received information pertaining to the communication,

determines a preferred device of the user based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode,

determines whether the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication,

sends information to the calling party indicating that the calling party should contact the user at the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of

the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling to initiate the communication, and

routes the communication to the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user accepts the data format of the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication; and

a processor that runs the program.

105. (Canceled)

106. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable medium encoded with instructions capable of being executed by a computer for routing a communication to a preferred device, the instructions comprising:

receiving a communication from a calling party to a device associated with a user being contacted by the calling party;

accessing information pertaining to the communication;

retrieving data corresponding to the user being contacted by the calling party using the information pertaining to the communication;

determining a preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode;

determining whether the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than a device used by the calling party to initiate the communication; and

sending contact information identifying a device associated with the calling party to the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party in the data format of the preferred device, when the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

107. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable medium encoded with instructions capable of being executed by a computer for routing a communication to a preferred device, the instructions comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a communication to a user from a calling party, the communication to the user being initiated by a device used by the calling party on a data network;

retrieving data corresponding to the user using the information pertaining to the communication;

determining a preferred device of the user based on the retrieved data, , wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode;

determining whether the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication;

sending information to the calling party indicating that the calling party should contact the user at the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication, and

routing the communication to the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user accepts the data format of the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

108. (Canceled)

109. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

a first server operable to:

receive a communication from a calling party to a device associated with a user being contacted by the calling party,

access information pertaining to the communication,

retrieve data corresponding to the user being contacted by the calling party using the information pertaining to the communication,

determine a preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode, and

determine whether the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than a device used by the calling party to initiate the communication; and

a second server operable to:

send contact information identifying a device associated with the calling party to the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party in the data

format of the preferred device, when the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

110. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

a first server operable to:

receive information pertaining to a communication to a user from a calling party, the communication to the user being initiated by a device used by the calling party on a data network,

retrieve data corresponding to the user using the received information pertaining to the communication,

determine a preferred device of the user based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode, and

determine whether the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication, and

a second server operable to:

send information to the calling party indicating that the calling party should contact the user at the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party,

wherein the communication is routed to the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user accepts the data format of the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

111. (Canceled)

112. (Currently Amended) A system for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

a voice network;

a data network; and

a service center operable to:

receive a communication from a calling party to a device associated with a user being contacted by the calling party;

access information pertaining to the communication;

retrieve data corresponding to the user being contacted by the calling party using the information pertaining to the communication;

determine a preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode;

determine whether the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than a device used by the calling party to initiate the communication; and

send contact information identifying a device associated with the calling party to the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party in the data format of the preferred device, when the preferred device of the user being contacted by the calling party requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

113. (Currently Amended) A system for routing a communication to a preferred device, comprising:

a voice network;

a data network; and

a service center operable to:

receive information pertaining to a communication to the user from a calling party, the communication to the user being initiated by a device used by the calling party on the data network;

retrieve data corresponding to the user using the received information pertaining to the communication;

determine a preferred device of the user based on the retrieved data, wherein the preferred device is one of a plurality of devices associated with the user, and wherein the preferred device is overridden without a condition when the retrieved data reflects selection of an override mode;

determine whether the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication;

send information to the calling party indicating that the calling party should contact the user at the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user requires a different data format than the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication, and

route the communication to the preferred device of the user, when the preferred device of the user accepts the data format of the device used by the calling party to initiate the communication.

114. (Canceled)

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting the user's location.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting the user's location.

117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein determining a preferred device of the calling party comprises:

specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting the calling party's location.

118. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting the user's location.

119. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, the means for determining a preferred device of the user comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting the user's location.

120. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, the means for determining a preferred device of the calling party comprising:

means for specifying the preferred device based on information reflecting the calling party's location.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the predetermined default device is the device used by the calling party.

122. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the predetermined default device is the device used by the calling party.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a communication comprises:

detecting at a switch in a voice network a communication from the calling party directed to the user at a calling number associated with the user; and

intercepting the communication upon detecting an intercept trigger associated with the communication.

124. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the means for receiving a communication comprising:

means for detecting at a switch in a voice network a communication from the calling party directed to the user at a calling number associated with the user; and

means for intercepting the communication upon detecting an intercept trigger associated with the communication.

125. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein sending a request comprises:

presenting an appropriate overlay to communicate with the preferred device of the user.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein sending a request comprises:

presenting an appropriate overlay to communicate with the preferred device of the user.

127. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, the means for sending a request comprising:

means for presenting an appropriate overlay to communicate with the preferred device of the user.

128. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 88, the means for sending a request comprising:

means for presenting an appropriate overlay to communicate with the preferred device of the user.

129. (Canceled)